

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115174
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TAGS:OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJ: TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ABOUT SOUTH
AFRICA

REFTEL: MAPUTO 606

1. FOLLOWING IN PARA 2 IS TEXT OF THAT PORTION OF LOS
ANGELES TV INTERVIEW IN WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER COMMENTED
ON SOUTHREN AFRICA.

2.QUOTE: QUESTION: MY NAME IS DOUG PATTON. I AM AN
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER. MY QUESTION IS, IN VIEW OF OUR
OUTLOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IN THE
PAST THE US HAS OFTEN SUPPORTED SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UNITED
NATIONS, CAN YOU TELL ME IF WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
OUR INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA BY OFFERING SUPPORT IN THE
UN OR NOT?

THE PRESIDENT: WE ARE TRYING AS BEST WE CAN TO MAKE CHANGES
IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE JUST FORMED, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
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OF ANDREW YOUNG, OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, A FIVE-NATION
PROPOSAL TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA, TO
TRY TO GET THEM TO WITHDRAW THE WHITE DOMINATION OF
NAMIBIA, WHICH WAS FORMERLY A GERMAN COLONY OF SOUTHWEST
AFRICA.

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAS JUST FINISHED A VISIT TO

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. HE IS GOING TO YUGOSLAVIA AND THEN HE IS GOING TO COME BACK TO VIENNA. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA IS COMING TO VIENNA TO MEET WITH HIM AND TALK ABOUT THE SHIFT IN SOUTH AFRICA AWAY FROM THE RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES KNOWN AS APARTHEID. WE ARE DOING THE BEST WE CAN TO BRING ABOUT THESE CHANGES.

THERE HAVE BEEN 25 OR 30 NATIONS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS THAT HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN TO US THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN GOOD STEPS TOWARD PRESERVING HUMAN RIGHTS. I BELIEVE IT IS ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THERE IS HARDLY A GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW THAT IS NOT TRYING TO DO A BETTER JOB ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTIALLY BECAUSE WE MADE SUCH AN ISSUE OF IT.

AS YOU KNOW, ALL THE SIGNATORIES OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT -- I THINK THERE ARE ABOUT 35 OF THEM -- WILL GO TO BELGRADE LATER ON THIS SPRING TO ASSESS HOW WELL OUR COUNTRIES HAVE DONE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE NOT PERFECT OURSELVES.

SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE, FOR INSTANCE, I HAVE CHANGED THE REGULATIONS SO THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR THE FIRST TIME CAN VISIT ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. IN THE PAST, WE HAD VERY TIGHT CONSTRAINTS ON VISITORS VISITING BACK AND FORTH. BUT WE ARE NOT SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE VERY EAGER TO SEE, AND WILLING TO USE, ALL THE LEVERAGE THAT WE CAN TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
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IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AN END TO THE APARTHEID THAT EXISTS WHERE THE BLACK PEOPLE HAVE TO CARRY PASSES AND HAVE SPECIAL CONSTRAINTS ON THEM, AND THE WHITE PEOPLE DON'T.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY SHORT OF WAR, WHICH WE WOULDN'T CONSIDER, TO GO IN AND JUST CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT. BUT WE ARE NOT ONLY TRYING TO MOVE OURSELVES BUT WE ARE TRYING TO GET OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN IN WITH US.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE OTHER FOUR NATIONS THAT HAVE JOINED WITH US WITH THE HELP OF ANDREW YOUNG WERE: THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA.

WE HAVE GONE TO VORSTER NOW AND GIVEN HIM A REQUEST -- A LITTLE STRONGER THAN A REQUEST, THAT IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT NAMIBIA, THEN WE ARE GOING TO TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST YOU IN THE UNITED NATIONS. (APPLAUSE)

LET ME SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO ALL OF YOU FOR LETTING
ME COME TO BE WITH YOU. I DON'T CLAIM TO KNOW ALL THE
ANSWERS. I AM JUST LIKE YOU ARE. I AM SEARCHING FOR THE
ABILITY AND THE UNDERSTANDING TO DO A GOOD JOB AS
PRESIDENT. AND I NEED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT WHEN YOU
THINK I AM RIGHT, AND YOUR STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF
CRITICISM WHEN YOU THINK I AM WRONG.

I THINK THAT I WILL MINIMIZE THE MISTAKES THAT I MAKE
BY STAYING CLOSE TO YOU. THE QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE HAD
TODAY ARE VERY BROAD IN THEIR SCOPE, FROM DEALING WITH
SOUTH AFRICA, ABOUT APARTHEID, TO HOW TO HAVE A MORE
BEAUTIFUL CITY, AND TO STOP GRAFFITI, AND A PLACE NEAR
WHAT IS HOME. THIS IS A KIND OF SENSE I NEED AS PRESIDENT
TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS OF CONCERN TO YOU.

I AM VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE COME TODAY. I WILL TRY
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TO DO THE KIND OF JOB THAT WILL MAKE YOU PROUD OF YOUR
OWN COUNTRY BECAUSE I THINK THAT WE MAKE MISTAKES ON
OCCASION, BUT I THINK IT IS GOOD FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT
AS FREE PEOPLE WE STILL LIVE IN THE GREATEST COUNTRY
ON EARTH. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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